

## Windblown Pelagic birds recorded during the monsoon of 2013 from Kozhikode coast, Kerala

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Occurrence of storm-blown marine birds is a regular phenomenon in the coastal districts of Kerala in the monsoon months. Several such records have been documented in detail by Sashikumar, *et al.* (2009). This year, we recorded three juvenile Masked Boobies (*Sula dactylatra*) and one immature Red-billed Tropicbird (*Phaethon aethereus*) from the Kozhikode coast. Interestingly all the records were between Chaliyam (estuary of Chaliyar river) and Kadalundi (estuary of Kadalundi river), within a distance of about 3 km. Except for Farook College, which is about 5 km inland, all the collection sites were very close to the sea coast. The details are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Pelagic birds recorded from Kozhikode coast during the southwest monsoon of 2013

Sl. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Date of Recovery	Locality
1	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	14.07.2013	Near Farook College
2	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	26.07.2013	Chalivam
3	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	28.07.2013	Kaducka bazar
4	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>	02.08.2013	Chalivam

All the specimens were juveniles. Though in exhausted condition initially, all recuperated in captivity at the Kadalundi –Vallikunnu Community Reserve. After a week of care they were released back to the sea at the Kadalundi estuary. During the rehabilitation, the boobies were fed mostly on Mackerel or Sardines while the preferred food of Tropicbird was squid: the bird devoured as many as 12 small squids in a day.

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### Reference

Sashikumar, C. Praveen, J. Palot, M.J and P.O. Nameer. 2011. *Birds of Kerala- Status and distribution*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. DC Books, Kottayam, Kerala. Pp. 1-835.



The juvenile Red-billed Tropicbird recovered at Chaliyam coast



The juvenile Masked Booby recovered at Kaducka bazar.